



# Hampton Mayor's Committee For People with Disabilities

## NEWSLETTER



Vol. 21 No. 4

Winter 2011

Jeanne E. Smith, Contributing Editor



### Mayor's Committee For People With Disabilities Members And Liaisons

*Front Row:* Renee' Edwards, Alicia Griffin, Ellen Shackelford, David Braunbeck. *Second Row:* Deanne Noel, Joy Golston, Susan Merryfield, Jeanne Smith, Polly Simmons, Paula Ogiba, Patricia Brown. *Back Row:* Barbara Stewart, Warren Mills, Larry Townsend, Fred Thaggard, Story Smith. (Missing Are Mary Fountain, Sara Ruch, Stephanie Stacy, Ethel Wilson).

### The Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Annual Report

*By Larry O. Townsend – Chairman*

**T**his year has been a very good year for our Committee. We have made much progress in many areas and we have been more visible to the community. The Committee wanted to make sure the community knew of the many services available to the Citizens of Hampton. We thank all of the many volunteers for all of their help in making Hampton one of the best cities for people with disabilities to live and work.

The following categories will highlight some of the many accomplishments of the last year:

#### Membership

We have added five new members to our member's role. They are Fred Thaggard, Mary Fountain,

*Continued on page 2*

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Stephanie Stacy, Alicia Griffin and Deanne Noel. We are happy to have these new members who are willing to work and make a difference in the community. The committee has added one additional outside liaison to the group. We are proud to have Deanne Noel of Peninsula Navy and Ursula Santiago of Joint Base Langley-Eustis Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program as part of our group.

**Town Meetings**

The Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities held two Town Hall meetings in the past year. In April we held our first Town Hall meeting to inform the community about the services offered by HRT and HandiRide to the disabled and senior community. Our second Town Hall meeting was held in October. The Town Meeting was designed to inform the community about services and resources offered for school age and young adults with disabilities. We video taped our second Town Meeting and copies of this are available for a small fee of \$ 15.00.

**Monthly Highlights from November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2011****November 2010**

Ellen Shackelford provided the full membership with part one of Sensitivity training. The highlight was the viewing of an awesome video called "The Ten Commandments for Communicating with People with Disabilities". It gave us a very good feel of how to communicate with people having disabilities.

We contacted the state DMV office about concerns in Hampton with non-ambulatory home bound people needing to conduct business with the DMV. The wait for service was extremely long. After discussions with DMV, they agreed that special arrangements could be made to resolve the situation.

**December 2010**

The Committee participated in the Hampton Holly Days Parade.

We helped to sponsor a Christmas party for the residents of the Ashwood Senior Center. This facility has a number of residents with various forms of disabilities. The event was well received.

**January 2011**

We worked with the City to determine that people having a disability and unable to place their trash out at curb side may have their doctor provide a note. This note could be given to the City along with an application to be considered for non curb side trash pickup. This application along with a doctor's note must be renewed every 12 months.

The second part of the sensitivity training was provided to the membership.

**February 2011**

DMV agreed to have a representative to attend our meeting and talk about ways that the organization might better serve the disabled community. The meeting will be set for January 2012.

**March 2011**

The committee met with representatives from the Hampton Bay Days committee to discuss the various problems with access for persons in mobile devices during Bay Days weekend. They agreed to work with us to make it better.

The committee gave a presentation at Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Church during the church's Disability Awareness Day.

*Continued on page 3*

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**April 2011**

Audit report of the books was completed and the accounting records were found to be in good order.

**May 2011**

Our School liaison reported that Hampton Public schools have a three year grant provided by Virginia to the Autism Center for an Inclusion Center at a local Hampton School.

**June 2011**

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to study and make recommendations to the City on how safety efforts could be made for Hampton residents using personal mobile devices. There had been a number of accidents and deaths as a result of safety measures not being observed.

**August 2011**

The Committee voted to financially support the Wheelin' Sportsmen Catfish Roundup. This is an annual event that provides people with disabilities, including the VA Medical Center Veterans, with the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities.

**September 2011**

The Honorable Mayor Molly Ward attended our meeting and thanked the members for their vital service to our community. She presented each member with a Certificate of Appreciation. Councilman Will Moffitt, who serves as a commissioner to HRT, invited additional officers of HRT to our meeting to discuss changes to services and answer questions from our members. We participated in Hampton Bay Days in the Community Row. We handed out literature about our Committee and brochures that would be informative to the disabled community. Our suggestions for better access were acknowledged and corrected.

**October 2011**

We held our Annual Awards Luncheon where we recognized citizens and business in our Community for their exceptional volunteer work during the year. They act as advocates for people with disabilities.

We participated in the 20th Anniversary Disability Awareness Day at Patrick Henry Mall. We revised our Constitution and forwarded it to the City Attorney for final approval. Our Legislative Committee reported that President Obama signed into law "Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011". This Law provides for \$693 million to go toward Autism research and treatment and mandates health insurance companies provide coverage for autism diagnostic and treatment for children between the ages of 2 and 6 years of age.

We hope that this Annual Report shows that the Committee has been working on your behalf to act as an advocate for the Citizens of Hampton with disabilities.

We thank the Mayor and members of the City Council for their support and concern.





**T**here are many individuals and organizations in Hampton who are working to help the disabled live more comfortably and to have equal access to the world around THEM. The Hampton Mayor's Committee—celebrating our 32nd year—is honored to recognize these special individuals and organizations who go the extra mile to hire, help, encourage the disabled community. In the 19 years of these awards, we have recognized 116 individuals, groups and businesses. We are most honored to add these 2011 Awardees to that list.

Presenting the awards are Mayor Molly Joseph Ward and Larry Townsend, Committee Chair

## **STEPHEN T. CAPO AWARD—EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR**



Arc Of The Virginia Peninsula proudly nominates Howmet/Alcoa Castings in Hampton for their significant contributions in providing quality employment for individuals with disabilities. Through their partnership with Arc Of The Virginia Peninsula. They employ 13 workers operating degreaser machines and sand blast cabinets that clean and refine large metal alloy parts that are used in aircraft engines and gas turbines. 3 Of the employees are full time with benefits and current part time workers are now being considered for full time status.

*Accepting the Stephen T. Capo EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR Award for Howmet Castings is Tony Drayton (Plant Manager)*

## *Test Your Knowledge Of Disability History*

1776 - Stephen Hopkins, a man with Cerebral Palsy, is one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; he said, "my hands may tremble, but my heart does not".

1861-1865 - The American Civil war results in 30,000 amputations in the Union Army alone, bringing awareness of physical disabilities to many Americans.

1872 - Alexander Graham Bell opens a speech school for deaf teachers in Boston. He invents the telephone while trying to develop a mechanical way to make speech visible.

*Continued on page 5*

## PHILIP E. EVERHART YOUTH AWARD

Luke Oliver Miller has gone above and beyond—spending over 120 hours of his time, plus coordinating a group of volunteers who contributed over 450 hours in order to build the first Adaptive Garden, for children with special needs, on the Hampton Roads Peninsula—located at the Children’s Hospital Of The King’s Daughters in Oyster Point. The Adaptive Garden benefits to the children are boundless—various gardening activities such as scooping, digging, and raking are fun but the children are actually working on reaching their therapy goals. The gardening activities benefit the children’s gross motor and fine skills by strengthening and exercising their muscles. The garden is also a natural and relaxed setting that takes the children out of the clinic/hospital setting. As part of this project, Luke had to raise money in order to fund the project—this entailed writing letters and giving presentations at local non-profit organizations. He collected over \$4000 to purchase items such as dirt, plants, flowers, shed, gloves, shovels, fertilizer and help with the cost of construction. Truly Luke is deserving of this award and we are proud to present it to him.



*The Phil E. Everhart Youth Award presented by Lucille Everhart to Luke Oliver Miller.*

*Continued from page 4*

1907 - Indiana becomes the first state to enact a eugenic sterilization law—for confirmed “idiots”, imbeciles and rapists”— in State institutions. The law is enacted in 24 other states.

1918 - As a result of the large number of WW1 veterans with disabilities, Congress passes the first major rehabilitation program for soldiers. In 1920, a bill funding job counseling and vocational training for people with disabilities in the general public is passed.

1927 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Buck v. Bell* that the compulsory sterilization of “mental defectives” such as Carrie S. Buck, a young Virginia woman, is constitutional under “careful” state safeguards. To date, the ruling has never been overturned.

1939 - At the onset of World War 2 Adolph Hitler orders widespread “mercy killing” of the sick and disabled. Code-named Aktion T4, the Nazi euthanasia program is instituted to eliminate “life unworthy of life”. Between 75,000 and 250,000 people with intellectual or physical disabilities are systematically killed from 1939-1941.

*Continued on page 7*



## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Employee Of The Year—this year there are two special people to be recognized in this category.



Alan (AJ) Hughes began working at the Howmet/Alcoa plant in Hampton in 2008 as a degreaser machine operator. He learned the machine's operation and was a most dependable employee. He asked his supervisor if he could be trained to work a sand blast cabinet in 2010 which job he soon mastered. Then he accepted the challenge and began training for a position, which included monitoring and then documenting the changing of liquids in the leach tanks.

AJ's immediate supervisor says that AJ is also a great asset in the wax department as well, monitoring ph levels and preparing lifting devices for wax patterns. He is definitely part of the Howmet family and Arc Of The Virginia Peninsula is proud to nominate "AJ" as an outstanding employee.



Milo Powell has been with Eggleston Services since March 2010 and is employed at Canon Virginia International. In the beginning he had difficulty maintaining a job for any length of time as he did not respond well to people who are overly directive. With supportive help from Eggleston Services, and his self determination—he has excelled in developing his abilities at canon and in his personal life. He has learned numerous jobs in the camera division and can fill in where needed. He has a perfect attendance record, and has developed a level of trust with his Canon supervisors and peers, that he now jokes with others and is a pleasure to work with.

Significantly, Milo has taken initiative in his personal life as well. He has purchased a car so that he can drive to and from work independently.

He is appreciated by Canon and has the potential to leave the contract position behind and become a full time Canon employee.

## CHARLES A. WORNOM HELPING HANDS AWARDS

The Charles A. Wornom Helping Hands award this year will be presented to 3 most worthy recipients.

We proudly present the Helping Hands award to Jane Hobbs. She is a tireless and dedicated volunteer working to improve the lives of others especially in the special needs community in Hampton, she is the mother of a daughter with Down Syndrome. Within the past year Jane has organized and contributed to many social events for our young adults with intellectual difficulties, and has been a visible advocate in Richmond speaking to the State Legislature addressing the critical need to increase funding for intellectually disabled citizens, the need for additional group homes and more adult day care programs.

Just a few weekends ago—the 5th Annual Catfish Roundup was held and with Jane's vision—our wounded warriors and veterans from the Va Medical Center had the opportunity to fish for catfish—enjoy lunch, music and free t-shirts—about 240 participated. Jane, raised the funding and recruited 210 volunteers to help with the event. Her next planned volunteer event is the 25th annual holiday party for 400 young adults with intellectual disabilities—to be held at The Alley on Newmarket Square. To fund the party – costing @\$3000—she'll beg, borrow, and persevere to ensure that the young adults have a happy holiday season.



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1961 - The American Standards Association, later known as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), publishes Making Buildings Accessible to and usable by the Physically Handicapped. Forty-nine states adopt accessibility legislation by 1973.

1962 - Ed Roberts, a young man with polio, enrolls at the University of California, Berkeley. After his admission is rejected, he fights to get the decision overturned. Roberts becomes the father of the Independent Living Movement and helps establish the first center for Independent Living. (One of the centers for Independent Living (CIL) is located here in Hampton--Editor's note)

1973 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 makes it illegal for federal agencies, public universities, and other public institutions receiving any federal funds to discriminate on the basis of disability.

*Continued on page 11*



## CHARLES A. WORNOM HELPING HANDS AWARDS

The Helping Hands Awards recognizes the Kiwanis clubs of Division 13 -accepting the award are Amy Thorstad–immediate past lieutenant of Kiwanis division 13, and Phyllis Henry–Aktion Club Of The Peninsula.

This club is made up of 10 clubs and 260 members. These dedicated volunteers joined together in 2008 to create a Kiwanis club for people with disabilities. The club helps people with disabilities learn about their community and help others in need. The nearly 30 club members regularly complete service projects for local organizations including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Transition Family Violence Services. They also host a Thanksgiving celebration each year for citizens with disabilities.

In addition to these 2 large, ongoing projects-one local club recently painted several rooms at the Arc's home for gentleman with disabilities and completely transformed the home.



We again are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Rick Barry with the Helping Hands Award.

We have recognized Rick's special qualities several times in the past for all the time he gives of himself to those visually impaired–although he is visually impaired as well. It is appropriate that we again recognize his dedication to helping others. He is an active member of the Northampton Lions Club, having served in many positions including chair and has recently received a 25 year pin from Lions Club International. He is a board member of Insight Enterprises, Peninsula Center For Independent Living, president of the Peninsula Council For The Blind; has served on the United Way committee and was a member of our committee. He is also active with the lodge for the blind in Burkeville and had worked for Sentara Careplex for 31 years having received many letters of appreciation for his helpfulness and efficient handling of patient and visitor issues.





# FYI

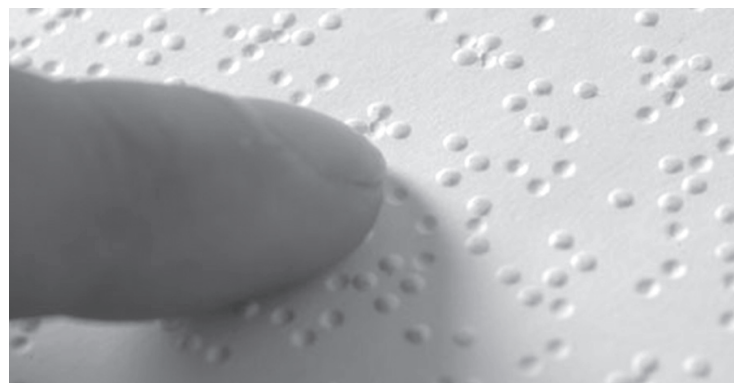
According to file data in cooperation with the IRS SPEC Partner (Stakeholder Partnership, Education & Communication Initiative) Partner: the National Disability Institute based in Washington, D.C., file data may have been extracted in the year 2008 / 2009. It remains the most current source of information for the IRS, W & I SPEC Disability Initiative.

## TOP 400 DISABILITY CITIES—Virginia had 16 Disability Cities Listed

RANK	STATE	CITY
242	VA	Hampton
<b>Total population</b>		<b>Total disabled</b>
146,985		14,201
<b>Persons Disabled In Total</b>		
	10%	
<b>Disabled Employed</b>		<b>Percent Disabled Employed</b>
8,126		57%

## BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT MENUS

The following local restaurants have Braille and Large Print menus available for customers: Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, Crowne Plaza, Denny's, Embassy Suites, Mary Helen's, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesday. If you know of others, please contact Jeanne at 826-0762



## DMV SERVICE—ON THE MOVE

The Mobile, "DMV 2 GO" full service DMV office will be at the front of Hampton City Hall on January 12, 2012. Customers will be able to conduct transactions from renewing driver's license, applying for Handicapped license plates and tags, to taking the road test. And, YES, it IS handicapped accessible.





## AMERICAN WHEELCHAIR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The AWBA is a non-profit organization whose membership is limited to wheelchairs bowlers. We encourage all disabled individuals to learn to bowl for rehabilitative, recreational and social betterment of their lives. To that end, we support local, regional and national competitions for those

interested in those same goals.

Our mission is to encourage, support and promote bowling particularly as an alternative form of recreation for the disabled community. Further, it is a sport for the disabled to participate in and one that the whole family can embrace as well.

We stress "ABILITY not DISABILITY. For more information contact Peggy Smith, Secretary, 22000 N. Douglas Ave., Edmond, OK 73912; email: [peggysmith1968@gmail.com](mailto:peggysmith1968@gmail.com). WEB address: [www.awba.org](http://www.awba.org)

## WINTER SURVIVAL TIPS

Temperatures are frigid as winter begins in Virginia. Follow these winter tips to keep you safe and prepared for winter emergencies:

- **If power goes out and you have no heat:** You'll need blankets or sleeping bags for warmth as few as 4 hours after power is out, depending on your home's insulation. Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing, and wear a hat and mittens.
- **If you use kerosene or propane heaters:** These should be used with caution. The room must be ventilated by opening a window. Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, blankets and furniture. Place heaters on a hard surface, NOT on the carpet. Refuel AFTER it has cooled.
- **If the power is out and you need information:** Be sure you have a battery powered radio with extra batteries. Get one with a weather radio band so you can hear reports from the National Weather Service and your local radio stations.
- **If you can't get out and need supplies:** Be prepared by stocking at least a 3 day supply of food that does not require refrigeration or electricity to prepare. You will need water- 3 gallons per person per day for drinking will last 3 days. Be sure you have flashlights and extra batteries on hand. DON'T use candles during power outages!!!
- **If you must drive during a winter storm:** Most traffic crashes happen within 2 hours after a storm starts. Stay off the roads to give the snowplows time and space to work. Get road conditions by calling 511- Buckle up every time you drive.



If you have Special Needs relating to disability, medical or other problem, that Emergency responders should be aware of during emergencies- be sure to register with the Office of Emergency Management in Hampton—Forms are available for the asking—call 757-727-1208.



*Continued from page 7*

1974 - The last "Ugly Law" is repealed in Chicago, Illinois. These laws allowed police to arrest and jail people with "apparent" disabilities for no reason other than being disfigured or demonstrating some type of disability.

1975 - The Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975--- now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is signed into law. It guarantees a free, appropriate, public education for all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment.

1980 - The Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) gives the Department of Justice power to sue state and local institutions that violate the rights of people held against their will, including those residing for care or treatment mental illness.

1988 - The Fair Housing Act of 1988 expands on the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to require that a certain number of accessible housing units be created in all new multi-family housing. The act covers both public and private homes and not only those in receipt of Federal funding.

1990 - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is signed into law by President George H.W. Bush alongside its "founding father", Justin Dart. The ADA is considered the most important civil rights law since Section 504 and has cross-disability support.

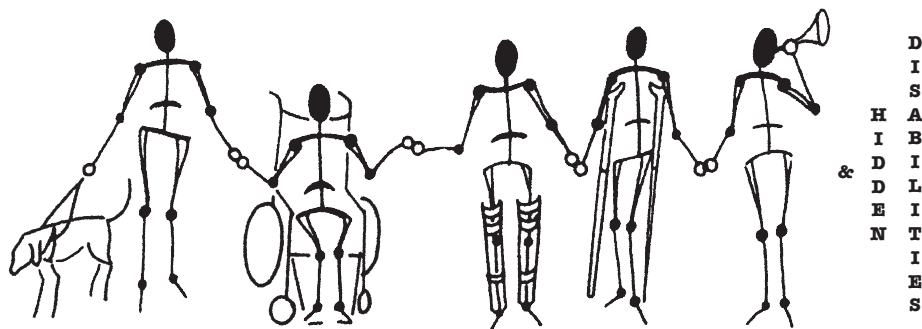
1999 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities constitutes discrimination and violates the ADA, that individuals have a right to receive benefits in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs", and that failure to find community-based placements for qualifying people with disabilities is illegal discrimination.

2004 - The U.S. Supreme Court hears *Tennessee vs. Lane*, in which the State is sued for failing to ensure that courthouses are accessible. One plaintiff is arrested when he tries to crawl or be carried up the stairs. Rejecting the State's argument, the Supreme Court decides in favor of people with disabilities, ruling that Tennessee can be sued for damages under Title 11 of the ADA.

2006 - The first bill requiring that public school students be taught about the Disability Rights Movement is passed in West Virginia, due largely to the efforts of 20 students with disabilities.

Some of the Timeline information is excerpted or reproduced courtesy of the Institute for Educational Leadership, Inc.. No known restrictions on publication.

Editor's Note---We've come a long way- but there's still a lot to be done!!!.



If we all work together, we can win the battle.

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## This is your newsletter!

This newsletter was established to serve the disabled population and to enhance public awareness by publishing interesting and informative articles that will specifically address the needs and interests of the disabled. We welcome your comments and suggestions concerning future articles. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We are not afraid of offering controversial views for the benefit of our readers. Consequently, views and interests presented will not necessarily be the opinions of the editors or of the members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

*Our thanks to the Hampton City Council  
for making these newsletters possible.*

**If you receive more than  
one newsletter, please pass  
the extra copy to a friend!**

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